

State where several kinds of country blend, the prairies of the western part, the rolling country of the upper part, the swampy or level woodland of the eastern parts of the State.

Judged from the standard of the winter bird life about New Orleans, the conditions here are rather contradictory; the Gnatcatcher, which is unusual as a winter bird at New Orleans, is regular here as a winter resident and might be called almost common; on the other hand, the Brown Creeper has appeared in some numbers in a live oak grove; at New Orleans it is a rare bird. So New Iberia appears to combine the advantages of both a lower and a higher latitude than New Orleans.

The Orange-crowned Warbler has been present in as large numbers as it is common to find it at New Orleans. The first was noted on November 19; at about this time (the end of February) the last are being heard. But much commoner than it is ever known at New Orleans is the Pine Warbler; like several other of the winter birds this bird is fond of the live oak groves; there it mixes freely with the Kinglets, Orange-crowned Warblers, Titmice, and Brown Creepers. Pine Warblers are fearless, and may be observed as they feed on the ground. Dull colored individuals are the commonest, but now and then a male in good plumage may be noticed among the little flocks; as the only yellow-breasted bird of winter he is conspicuous. Myrtle Warblers have been scarce through most of the winter, but the appearance of transients was noted February 13. The first transients of this species always appear about the middle of February in southern Louisiana.

Particularly since Christmas, Rusty Grackles have been very abundant; many Bronzed Grackles have been with them; that species is evidently the regular winter resident here; at New Orleans it is practically unknown at all times of the year, the Florida Grackle being the regular form there.

Goldfinches were the last winter residents to come; the first were noted not in cold weather, but on an Indian summer day that was one of the warmest of the late fall, November 26.

The remainder of the winter birds are the ordinary ones in this part of the country: White-throated Sparrow (in great abundance), Swamp Sparrow, Savana Sparrow, Phœbe, Robin, Winter Wren, Cedarbird, and American Pipit. The assemblage of these species is swelled of course, by the presence of various common residents: Cardinal, Towhee, Thrasher, Blue Jay, Red-headed Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, etc.—HENRY H. KOPMAN, *Covington, La.*

Northern Birds at Cumberland, Md.—On December 6, last, I took a walk along the Potomac, at a place where the banks are wooded, between the river and the old Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. I had at former occasions, but much later in winter, seen flocks of Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*) and other northern birds there feeding on the sycamore apples. On this day also there were Purple Finches about, and their clear notes could be heard at different places. When I came to a small

water course, coming through an adjoining field into the river, the sides of which are covered by bushes, vines and several trees, up came from the ground, where they had been feeding among the bushes and weeds, a flock of about eight Redpolls (*Acanthis linaria*). They perched on a little sapling, closely together, about twenty feet from me and I eyed them intently through a glass, but after a few moments they flew up into a tree, about fifty feet high, and thence, after a few moments, away and did not alight again as far as I could see. I saw their crimson caps plainly, they fairly glowed in the bright light of this clear, frosty day.

On February 5, last, I saw at the same locality a flock of about eight American Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra minor*). They were not feeding just then and were shy. They allowed me to take one good and longing look at them and immediately departed for regions unknown. This was the first week of the long, cold spell we had this winter, lasting through the whole of February.

Some more northern visitors were here this winter, which I had never before seen. On November 16, last, while walking over a common or old meadow at the base of Wills Mountain, I flushed a fine Snowflake (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). It was not at all shy and allowed of close approach. It was not cold that day, about 32°, and there had been no storms or snow before. It must have become separated from its companions by mistake, for I could see no more that day. On February 8, however, at the same place, right near houses, I saw three more Snowflakes, their feathers more soiled than those of the one seen in November. At this time also it was very cold with much snow on the ground and at times stormy.

It may also be worthy of mention, that during this cold spell, at which the proverbial 'oldest' resident was surprised, there were hundreds of Prairie Horned Larks (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) about the city, even, on account of the snow covering all fields and hills, coming into the streets of the city and sharing with the English Sparrows their usual delicacies of this and other seasons. They usually are here somewhat later and are then found first on the bare spots on the hillsides, where the snow has melted.—G. EIERIG, *Cumberland, Md.*

February Water Birds of Elsinore Lake, California.—*Colymbus holbælli*. HOLBÆLL'S GREBE.—We had hardly expected to find this grebe on Lake Elsinore, but were pleasantly surprised by finding a dead specimen on the shore. It was much decomposed but was plainly an immature bird just getting the adult plumage.

Podilymbus podiceps. PIED-BILLED GREBE.—It seems rather strange that we should not have seen either of the typical Californian Grebes, although of course they might have been there without our knowledge. The pied-billed variety was common all over the lake, keeping well out from shore, however, as they were much shot at.

Larus occidentalis. WESTERN GULL.—These gulls, as well as all others, were very rare on the lake: the result of much persecution. We saw but two or three during our stay.